

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1864

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT MZ

SUBJ: GOVERNOR GENERAL COMMENTS ON RECENT MOZAMBIKAN ELECTIONS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 197, MARCH 27

1. DURING OUR CONVERSATION MARCH 31, GOVGEN PIMENTEL DOS SANTOS CONFIRMED THAT 52 PERCENT (I. E., 26 MEMBERS) OF NEWLY ELECTED LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS NON- WHITE. HE SAID TOTAL REGISTERED ELECTORATE OF OVER 111,000 PERSONS WAS 12 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THAT IN LAST NOVEMBER' S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, AND HE EXPECTED FURTHER 100 PERCENT INCREASE FOR NEXT ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHEN ELECTORATE SHOULD RISE TO 225-250,000. HE HOPES TO RAISE THIS TO 5000,000 IN NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS AND, IN FACT, HAS GOAL OF REACHING ONE MILLION BEFORE HE LEAVES OFFICE.

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WM OF 24 MEMBERS THUS FAR ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (JUNTA CONSULTIVA), NINE ARE WHITE AND 15 (62.5

PERCENT) NON- WHITE. GOVGEN SAID THAT OF FOUR MEMBERS HE INTENDS TO APPOINT TO COMPLETE COUNCIL' S ROSTER, TWO WILL BE WHITE AND TWO NON- WHITE. (REPORTEDLY ONE OF LATTER WILL BE MIGUEL MURUPA, EX- FRELIMO OFFICIAL NOW EDITING " VOZ AFRICANA" IN BEIRA.)

3. GOVGEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT WHAT HE CALLED " GREAT LOCAL INTEREST" IN ELECTIONS, WITH LONG LINES OF VOTERS OUTSIDE EACH POLLING STATION ON ELECTION DAY. HE SAID ALTHOUGH NO OPPOSITION CANDIDATES PRESENTED THEMSELVES, TWO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WHO HAD SUPPORTED OPPOSITION SLATE AT LAST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION, JORGE DE ABREU AND JOAQUIM NUNES DE CARVALHO, ARE NOW ELECTED MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AS WELL AS MACONDE PRIEST ATANAZIO VALERIO MWITUE FROM PORTO AMELIA, WHOSE BROTHER IS WITH FRELIMO AND WHOSE FAMILY STILL RESIDES IN TANZANIA.

4. GOVGEN SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT U. S. AND PORTUGUESE VIEWS ON SELF- DETERMINATION MIGHT DIFFER BUT POINTED OUT THAT GRADUALLY INCREASING PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS IN GOVERNING PROCESS AT ALL LEVELS, OF WHICH LAST ELECTION IS BUT AN EARLY STEP, WOULD IN ITSELF CONSTITUTE GREAT MEASURE OF TRUE SELF- DETERMINATION. HE REPEATED WHAT HE HAS TOLD ME BEFORE TO EFFECT THAT NEW POLITICAL/ ADMINIST-RATIVE STATUTE OF DECEMBER 22, ALTHOUGH LEAVING ULTIMATE CONTROL WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN LISBON, IN FACT GIVES MOZAMBIQUE GOVT GREATLY INCREASED POWERS IN ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, AND DAY- TO- DAY OPERATIONAL MATTERS. IN LONG RUN, HE SAID, DEGREE TO WHICH MOZAMBIQUE ACTUALLY ATTAINS GREATER AUTONOMY WILL DEPEND ON EXTENT TO WHICH ITS GOVT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

VAN OSS

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